



Michael J. Kelley

June 21, 1947 - January 21, 2022

Michael J. Kelley, 74, of East Peoria, passed away on January 21, 2022, at Unity Point Methodist Hospital in Peoria. He was born in Bloomington on June 21, 1947, to Arthur and Rosemary (Neiryneck) Kelley. He married Linda B. Carl on December 17, 1966, in Heyworth; she survives.

Also surviving are his two daughters, Michelle (Terry) Johnson of Germantown Hills and Jennifer (David) Danosky of Elkhart; six grandchildren, Bradley Bernovich, Alex Bernovich, Andrew Danosky, Cameron Blaum, Shane Danosky and Shelby Danosky; his brothers, Arthur "Steve" (JoAnn) Kelley, John (Linda) Kelley, Larry (Carol) Kelley, Dale (Nancy) Kelley, and his sister Mary (David) Lee.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Kenneth Kelley. Michael founded and operated Unit Step Company of Peoria, with his wife Linda, for over 39 years. He took great pride in making a difference by serving the community. He was a member of The Downtown Rotary Club for over 30 years, was a member of the Peoria Jaycees from 1975-1987, serving as President 1981-82, was a member of the JCI Senate, was involved with Greater Peoria Crimestoppers for over 30 years, held a seat on the East Peoria Zoning Board for 12 years, and volunteered for the Channel 47 Auction for more than 40 years. He was the recipient of the Tom Connor Volunteer of the Year Award and was awarded Tri County Citizen of the Year by the South-West Peoria Kiwanis Club.

Michael was also an active member of United Presbyterian Church in Peoria,

where he served as an elder and a deacon, was on the Transportation and Property Committees, and was a cookie maker for the Dough Boys.

The family will receive friends from 4-6 pm on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at United Presbyterian Church in Peoria. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, January 28, 2022, at the church, with an additional hour of visitation prior to the service at 9:00 am. Reverend Debra Avery will officiate. Masks will be required at the church. The service will be live streamed on the church's YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/c/UnitedPresbyterianPeoria>. Burial will follow at Springdale Cemetery in Peoria. Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services of East Peoria is assisting the family. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to United Presbyterian Church of Peoria Transportation Committee or WTVP. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Springdale Cemetery

3014 N Prospect Rd
Peoria, IL 61603

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 27. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

United Presbyterian Church
2400 W Northmoor Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

Visitation

JAN 28. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

United Presbyterian Church
2400 W Northmoor Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

Funeral Service

JAN 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

United Presbyterian Church
2400 W Northmoor Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael J. Kelley



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 28, 2022 at 02:00 PM



“ Michael J. Kelley

October 08, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ Mike was a truly wonderful person. Completely genuine, warm and transparent, his friendship was a gift. He was talented and yet self-effacing. He had that remarkable gift to make everyone he encountered feel better about life. Mike was special and he is missed.

Tim Bertschy - May 03, 2022 at 02:47 PM



“ From your Florida family we all love you purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael J. Kelley.



From your Florida family we all love you - January 27, 2022 at 01:39 PM



“ *Large Heart - 'Death leaves a heartache' was purchased for the family of Michael J. Kelley.*



January 26, 2022 at 04:43 PM



“ *31 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 26, 2022 at 01:09 PM

RO

“ Linda & family,

Our condolences go to you all on the passing of Mike. He was such a positive, caring, such a hard working, dedicated person that we were proud to call our friend. If the Peoria area ever had a character like George Bailey from the movie It's A Wonderful Life, it would have to be Mike Kelley. With all his community involvement, from the Jaycees, Rotary, Crimestoppers and 47, to all the friends he had helped or were connected with, it's hard to image what the town would be like if he was never around. We were all blessed to be a part of his life. "Overbid!!"

We hope the Kelley family is at peace.

*Yours in Jaycees,
Rick & Beth Owens*

Rick Owens - January 26, 2022 at 01:02 PM

LH

“ Linda, Michelle, Jennifer and family, I am so sorry to here of Mikes passing. He has certainly fulfilled being a “Good and Faithful Servant”. I have memories of so many good times at Arcadia Avenue Presbyterian Church. You could always depend on Mike to help you out. No matter the function or what your need was Mike was there. We did a lot of hard work for the Lord and enjoyed our fellowship. Mike has certainly earned his rest. I am so glad to have spent time with him catching up at a social function. I will treasure that time as well. The world was a nicer place with Mike in it! My love to all.

leslie Harland - January 25, 2022 at 08:45 PM

ST

“ *linda and family, have know the family since jenny and i went to robein together and lived in neighborhood. i remember countless times being at their home and vice versa. mike always had a smile on his face and always made me feel so welcome. keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers and for the lord to lead you through this hard loss. may each memory warm your soul.. stacey schultz-knight*



stacey - January 25, 2022 at 01:14 PM

JB

“ *I met Mike when I volunteered for WTVP channel 47 auction. He was a warm, friendly and encouraging individual. Each year of my volunteering , Mike was one of the persons I wanted to see and get caught up with since previous year's auction, I send my condolences to Mike's family. I am confident, due to his faith in our Savior , we shall see him again on the other side of the veil.*



Jim Burdette - January 25, 2022 at 01:09 PM



“ *I knew Mike through Rotary and we worked together on numerous houses with the Christmas in April project. He will be missed by many.*
Gary Jacob

Gary Jacob - January 25, 2022 at 10:25 AM

CW

“ *My thought and prayers are with you at this time. May our Loving Lord protect you and provide you with strength.*
Carolynsue Wolf

Carolynsue Wolf - January 25, 2022 at 10:17 AM

WA

“ *Mike was such a friendly, caring man! I knew Mike through the 47 auctions, and he was just a wonderful human being. The smiling picture of him posted here reflects his warm, open personality perfectly. His memory will indeed be a blessing to all who knew him. My condolences to his family and all those friends who loved him.*

willia anderson - January 25, 2022 at 10:14 AM

SK

“ *Sincere condolences to the Kelly family. Mike was a special guy! Met him thru the Peoria Jaycees 50 years ago. He was a go-getter! He later recruited me to work 47 auctions for several years. We met up every year for Night Out Against Crime events. Always friendly, optimistic, and fierce advocate for Central Illinois even as he faced his health problems with remarkable courage. May he rest in peace!*

Sharon Kennedy - January 25, 2022 at 07:08 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael J. Kelley.*



January 24, 2022 at 09:39 PM

MM

“ Was in Jaycee’s with Mike years ago.
Remember him from the Channel 47 Auctions. Michael was quite the character.
He would do anything for anyone. Quite the humanitarian. Rest In Peace Mike.

Michael P. McConnell - January 24, 2022 at 08:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael J. Kelley.



January 24, 2022 at 04:09 PM

JJ

“ Until I got to read Mike's full obituary, I did not realize that not only did we share many years of both Jaycees and Rotary experience, but we were both born in Bloomington, IL, but he was born on my younger sister's 4th birthday. One of the greatest friends of my lifetime.

Jerry Jackson - January 24, 2022 at 12:26 PM

KW

“ Family of Mike,
We so enjoyed working around Mike. He was positive and fun. He was always busy but took the time to smile. Such a great guy. We will miss him at RP Lumber when we went to get materials. Ken and Mike Wharram and Parker Zimmerman of Wharram Builders

Ken Wharram - January 24, 2022 at 12:09 PM

PS

“ Mike was one of the first people to greet us at Arcadia Avenue Presbyterian Church. As a young family Mike made us feel so welcome and he was one of the reasons we came back the next Sunday! We have never met a more warm, caring individual - he was always the first person to volunteer to help with whatever project came up! When our son Joey began his Eagle Scout Project at church, Mike, of course, was one of the first people on the volunteer team to help. That gazebo still stands today, welcoming weary people to find rest and calm within a hurried world. We have lost one of God's favorite angels and Mike will be missed every day. We will certainly keep Linda and family in our prayers. We give thanks to God for a life well-lived - we love you Mike!

Pam Scranton - January 24, 2022 at 11:07 AM

AE

Linda & Mike greeted us at Arcadia Ave Presbyterian when we can there. He fixed our water heater while Jim was working in St Louis. So sorry about losing Mike.

Eunice & Jim

Andrews Jim & Eunice - January 24, 2022 at 04:11 PM

RC

Linda and Family,

Judy and I truly enjoyed working with you and Mike during our membership at United Presbyterian Church. Mike was a long time believer in Christ and one of the tremendous supporters of the Church. His warmth and friendly manner was at the top of the scale as a volunteer! I also had the pleasure of working with Mike as members of the Peoria Downtown Rotary Club. During my term as President, Mike was ALWAYS one of the 1st to assist with any projects or events needing attention or assistance. He will truly be missed! God Bless Linda and the Family.

Bob and Judy Carruthers

Robert Carruthers - January 28, 2022 at 09:11 PM



“ *I Have You In My Heart Plush Blanket was purchased for the family of Michael J. Kelley.*



January 24, 2022 at 09:20 AM



“ *Linda, Michelle and Jenny, so sorry your families are in our thoughts and prayers. Many fond memories of your family as neighbors ❤️ The Peplinski's.*

I'm not sure who was responsible Mike or Linda for my brother and I being Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch at the Heart of Illinois Fair....needless to say I ended up in a green furry costume in a garbage can 😊

The Peplinski's - January 24, 2022 at 01:32 AM



“ *The world has lost an amazing man. If you knew him, you admired him! He was the unique voice for the WTVP 47 Auction, & a long time supporter of Rebuilding Together Peoria, in addition to many other community efforts. Mike will be sorely missed. Fly high, Mike, & keep smiling! Prayers & sincere sympathy to Linda & their family. Deb & John Hulet*

Deb Hulet - January 23, 2022 at 11:02 PM

EB

“ Mike was simply the best...he served his community in so many ways. I loved his "It's an OVERBID!!!" at many WTVP Auctions, and know those were only a small part of his many contributions, often with Linda helping at his side or somewhere nearby. May your family find peace in all your wonderful memories, thinking of you all now and in the future.

Ellen Becker - January 23, 2022 at 10:36 PM